



# THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF

## ...off the old blockflute

The Birmingham Chapter of  
the American Guild of Organists

Winter 2020

### A Word from the Dean

Greetings, friends and colleagues,

What a wonderful Epiphany Party we had! **Barry Norris** was an amazing host, and **Mimi Jackson** was his invaluable assistant. The 27 in attendance enjoyed an amazing dinner and lively conversation. We were pleased to have **Evie Morris**, organist of First Baptist Birmingham and student of Charles Kennedy, **Stuart Thompson**, friend of several of our members and who is active in the Alabama Theater Organ Society, and longtime friend, **K. Lee Scott**, join us as well. As always, spouses **Bruce Julian**, **Sherrie Lawhon**, **Pat Richardson**, and **Rick Shelton** added to the camaraderie.

The process of electing the next group of chapter leaders has begun. The slate of nominees for each position and a description of the next phase are provided in this newsletter. We sincerely appreciate the thoughtfulness and time invested by Nominating Committee chairman **Mark Hayes** and members **Pat Fitzsimmons** and **Natalie Tally** in developing this slate, as well the willingness of nominated members to serve in the respective positions.



**Jamie and Mike at the Epiphany Party hosted by Barry Norris**

We thank **Faythe Freese**, **Paul Mosteller**, and **Cathy Shelton** who comprise the outgoing 2017-20 class of the Executive Committee for their efforts the past three years and look forward to their future contributions to the chapter.

Our next gathering will be Monday, February 10, at Cathedral Church of the Advent. Fred Teardo will lead the program on *“Continuo Playing and Instruments.”* See p. 2 of the newsletter or the website for details.

Hope to see you on February 10!  
Sherelyn

## February 10 Chapter Meeting

This month **Fred Teardo** and **Charles Kennedy** are hosting us at **Cathedral Church of the Advent**, 2017 6th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203.

Fred will lead the program on *“Continuo Playing and Instruments,”* using the recently acquired harpsichord in his presentation.

Please join us at 6 pm in Clingman Commons for a catered dinner, a business meeting and then Fred’s program. Members may invite guests to join us for what will surely be an enlightening and enjoyable musical evening. As usual, online dinner reservations will be available on the chapter website. We look forward to seeing you and your guest there!

## Program Suggestions for 2020-21 Calendar

Have ideas on topics you’d like covered in one of our chapter programs? Possible presenters you’d like to hear? Interested in hosting a meeting at your church or residence? The Executive Committee invites your ideas at the Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> business meeting. We look forward to hearing your thoughts as we get plans underway for next year.

## 2020 Election Process

Chapter members are invited to submit nominations for officers and Executive Committee class members to the secretary by **March 31st**. Nominations from the chapter will be combined with the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee into a single ballot.

## Nominating Committee Slate for Officers and Executive Committee Class

These members have accepted nomination to the officer and Executive Committee positions:

### Officers 2020-22

Dean: Sherelyn Breland  
Secretary: Debby Holmes  
Treasurer: Mike Burt

### Executive Committee Class of 2020-23

(Choose up to two):

Sam Burke  
Jim Cook  
Charles Kennedy  
Mike Sparks

## Election Timeline

Chapter nomination deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Online voting will begin Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.  
In-person voting will conclude the election at the May 11<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting.

## Guidelines

Guidelines for nominations and the election process are listed in “Section 4. CHAPTER GOVERNANCE” and “Section 8. ELECTION PROCEDURES” of the Chapter Operating Procedures at:

<http://www.birminghamago.org/AboutUs.html>.

The schedule and more complete details of the election process will be posted on the chapter website in late March. Please contact Sherelyn Breland ([dean@birminghamago.org](mailto:dean@birminghamago.org)) if you have any questions.

# Elizabeth's Picks

by Elizabeth Smith, resource specialist at  
Lois Fyfe Music:

“New organ music I’ve bought and  
played!”

**David Blackwell** / *5 English folk song settings*  
[Morningstar \$16]. British composer  
Blackwell’s latest arrangements are creative  
and not too short for a good prelude.  
**Monk’s Gate, Greensleeves, Jacob’s Ladder,  
Stowey, and Kingsfold**

**Albert Fedak** / *Prelude on a Gaelic Hymn*.  
[Selah \$7] Based on tune **Columcille**, which  
is appearing in lots of new hymnals. Written  
for a wedding, but it’s a gentle tune that can  
be used on many occasions.

**Kenneth Kosche** / *With High Delight*  
[Morningstar \$19]. Neo-Baroque-ish settings  
of **7 Easter tunes**. See sample pages on  
Morningstar website.

**John Rutter** / *Elegy and Festive Bells* [Oxford  
\$11.95] Newly composed, *Elegy* uses warmly  
expressive tenor-range melodies, while the  
*Bells* is a fun postlude that won’t take many  
days to learn.

**Albert Travis** / *Voluntary on Thaxted*  
[Morningstar \$9] Seems like everyone is  
jumping on the Thaxted bandwagon! This  
setting has a freely composed middle section.

**James Vivian** has written two recent hymn  
harmonizations and descants for royal  
weddings:

1. **Two Royal Descants** [Encore \$6.95]  
Written for Princess Eugenie’s  
wedding. **Abbot’s Leigh** and  
**Blaenwern**
2. **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**  
[Encore \$4.95] Written for Prince  
Harry’s wedding. **Cwm Rhondda**



## Remaining Chapter Events for the 2019-20 Year

### **Monday, Feb. 10**

#### **Continuo Playing and Instruments**

*Presenter:* Fred Teardo

*Hosts:* Fred Teardo and Charles Kennedy

*Venue:* Cathedral Church of the Advent

Dinner 6:00 PM in Clingman Commons,  
catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

### **Monday, March 9**

#### **Music and Technology**

*Presenters:* Faythe Freese and panel

*Host:* Faythe Freese

*Venue:* Music Bldg, UA Tuscaloosa

Dinner 6:00 PM, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

### **Monday, April 20**

#### **Chapter Recital**

*Host:* Fred Teardo

*Venue:* Reid Chapel, Samford University

Dinner 6:00 PM in Reid Commons, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

### **Monday, May 11**

#### **Performance Practice: Leo Sowerby**

*Presenter:* Faythe Freese

*Host:* Jeff McLelland

*Venue:* Independent Presbyterian Church

Dinner 6:00 PM in Great Hall, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM